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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Microsoft Antitrust

To whom it may concern:

I propose the most lenient stance against Microsoft. The states that do not want to go with the Federally proposed compromises do not represent me. Microsoft has, if anything, made my job easier. Their combination of products are put together to improve productivity. Would you buy a car without all the parts in it that make it do what you want to do with it??? Are you going to make GM give customers the option of putting a Ford engine in them???

Microsoft monopoly is on brain power. They are known in the tech industry as being one of the best places to work. They don't hire programmers necessarily. They hire thinkers. They even (legend has it) have a series of brain teasers (or puzzles) to determine whether you are the type of thinker they need. Their superiority comes not from a deliberate attempt (though they have done some things questionable like forcing use of the browser) to be a monopoly. It comes from their hard work in the wake of all their competitors' failure to innovate.

I have tried the browsers. Netscape has problems because they fail to meet standards. IE succeeds because it complies to standards (and standards are created by the ISO-which Microsoft cannot control). An operating system, by itself is useless. A lot of programs are over-priced to the point the consumer cannot afford them. The browser (being built in) gives the consumer the ability to gain immediately gain access to the internet. Without it, more trips to the store and more money has to be spent. You have to hope you get a browser that is compatible with your system. I have seen cases where they are not!!!!!! You have to get it installed, get the disk for an ISP, etc, etc. How does this benefit the consumer???? With Microsoft, they give you the browser, and with its setup, the ability to connect up (immediately) to one of many ISPs they have available (and it shows Microsoft's competitors to their MSN service!!!!

I also am afraid of the economic fallout of carrying this lawsuit too far. The tech sectors stocks get affected by the stock prices of companies that are leaders like Microsoft. I guarantee you that the stock of the tech sector will fall greatly if Microsoft is ever broken up or punished too severely. Microsoft is not laying off (unlike the very same companies that are against Microsoft). They bring a lot of money into the economy. And, they do not do as other tech companies have done, i.e. move their programming tasks to foreign entities like India. If you were a programmer with your own company and put the effort you are putting into this lawsuit, into your programming company, you would do the things Microsoft has done, and that is innovate.

Microsoft affects my job. Their stable platform keeps my job easier. I don't have to debug their operating system to get my programs working. I guarantee you that I could not say the same thing about their competitors. The browser, in my opinion should be part of the operating system. They designed it to be stable. I use it, more often than not in my job, I sometimes use Netscape to see how badly the online banking code, that my company writes, is mauled by the errors that are in Netscape (and I do see a lot of problems in Netscape).

In conclusion, this lawsuit does not protect the consumer. It protects some special interest groups who are for the competitors of Microsoft. If Microsoft is a monopoly, so is Ford, and GM, etc, etc.

Jeff White